Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, The Holocaust was the state-sponsored, systematic persecution and annihilation of European Jewry by Nazi Germany and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945. Jews were the primary victims – six million were murdered; Gypsies, the handicapped, and Poles were also targeted for destruction or decimation for racial, ethnic, or national reasons. Millions more, including homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, Soviet prisoners of war and political dissidents, also suffered grievous oppression and death under Nazi tyranny; and,

Whereas, The history of the Holocaust offers an opportunity to reflect on the moral responsibilities of individuals, societies, and governments; and,

Whereas, We the people of the state of South Dakota should always remember the terrible events of the Holocaust and remain vigilant against hatred, persecution, and tyranny; and,

Whereas, We the people of the state of South Dakota should actively rededicate ourselves to the principles of individual freedom in a just society; and,

Whereas, The Days of Remembrance have been set aside for the people of the state of South Dakota to remember the victims of the Holocaust as well as to reflect on the need for respect of all peoples; and,

Whereas, Pursuant to an Act of Congress (Public Law 96-388, October 7, 1980), the United States Holocaust Memorial Council designates the Days of Remembrance of the victims of the Holocaust as Sunday, April 18 through Sunday, April 25, 2004, including the international Day of Remembrance known as Yom Hashoah, April 18:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim April 18-25, 2004, as

DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE

in South Dakota, and urge all citizens to strive to overcome intolerance and indifference through learning and remembrance.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Fifteenth Day of March in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Four.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State